TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF HURON.

MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS:

It was only yesterday that I saw by accident, in an obscure print, the name of which I never before heard, an attack upon me by Mr. Morgan Hamilton. As it is an axiom in law, that no man is bound to plead to nonsense, I shall say nothing on the rigmarole of this production, much less shall I disgrace myself by retorting it's Billingsgate. Mr. Hamilton, by a transaction perfectly fresh in the memory of every one here, has deprived himself of the power of insulting a gentleman—where, however, he alleges facts, there I can meet him without degrading myself.

He states, by implication, that of 17 Magistrates and 9 Commissioners of the Court of Requests, there is no Irishman, *because* of the predominance of the party of which he does me the honour to say I am the head. Now the fact is notorious to all the County, that of these 17 Magistrates—I was made before this County was even explored—Mr. Prior and Mr. Brewster were made some time after, and all the remainder were made before this was created a County, and on the recommendation of the Commissioners and Officers of the Canada Company. If these gentlemen had thought that there was an Irishman whose education and standing in society fitted him for so responsible an office, they most undoubtedly would have recommended him, and if it can be shewn that there are any Irishmen so circumstanced, there is no doubt they will be recommended yet. There are only two Magistrates who have been appointed since this became a County—these are Mr. Gooding and Mr. Jones; the former was recommended by me, the latter, I presume, by himself.

Of these 19 (not 17) Magistrates, 11 were Englishmen, 6 Scotchmen, 1 American, and 1 Irishman. We do not see, however, what right Mr. Hamilton has to exclude Mr. Daly from being an Irishman. He has the same right to claim that country that Mr. Hamilton himself has, though he was born, I believe, in Manchester; had Mr. Hamilton had the good fortune to be born in St. Giles', he would have had the same right to have claimed the Irish as compatriots, that Captain Strachan has to claim the British as such—he would have then been a Colonist, but Leather Lane can by no means bestow the same immunities as Seven Dials.

As to the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, the office is so undesirable that it is often found difficult and sometimes impossible to form a Court in this part of the world, and I am aware of no one who ever courted the distinguished honour of sitting in the *Sixpenny Chancery*, excepting the aspiring individual, whose lucubrations form the subject of my present observations, and he, I have been credibly informed, went about the country, hawking a paper for subscriptions from house to house, recommending himself to the Lieutenant Governor for such an enviable promotion.

Mr. Hamilton states that he never wrote but one letter to Colonel Van Egmond, and he gives us very good marks by which to know that letter. Mr. Lizars states there were several, but when it is considered that Mr. Hamilton *kindly* volunteered to look over the late Mr. Van Egmond's papers to search for his Will, the wonder is, not that the others disappeared, but, that the subjoined one was left :—

"GODERICH, July 3rd, 1836.

"DEAR SIR,

"In answer to your letter which has just reached me; I have only to observe that I trust my conduct will always have truth for it's guide, and justice for it's aim.

"Toleration is the chief lesson all men ought to learn in public life: for while they claim a right of thinking and speaking upon all political measures, and matters connected therewith, they should honour and respect the men, who, in the exercise of the same right, differ from them; I consequently considered you most unfairly treated; that gentlemanly demeanour which you were entitled to as a Freeholder, even the *courtesy due* to a Candidate was disgracefully abused. The first public opportunity, I took occasion of strongly animadverting upon the conduct of your assailers; who, from the moment of the attack, in my estimation, were totally unfit for even a *minor public capacity*, much more a representative of a growing County.

"Mr. Lizars, Sir, is held up as the Demosthenes of the Huron: Oh !!! perhaps a Candidate's address in hand, to comment upon for his *cue* (with the use of his pebbles) or a dozen sheets of *Fools-cap*, compiled of *School-boys' lessons*; beginning with patriotic Alfred, together with the glories of Bruce, and sacrifice of Wallace: I know of no man more competent to gull the public with *clap-trap* than the said Mr. Daniel Lizars, *aided* by a *baneful Dominant Faction*, which I to my last shilling will oppose.

Sir, I seek no compliment; no man ought to require it in the discharge of his duty: I saw you publicly insulted on the last occasion; as a Brother Freeholder I publicly resented it on this. I expressed my disgust, and called upon the independent Freeholders to *check* the growth of these domestic spoilers, that would make us slaves, and tell us, too, our duty. For I hated the man who built his *name* on the ruins of another's *fame*.

"I have ever loved the glorious Constitution of my native land! and the beneficent Institutions of its birth: and will strenuously uphold the principles it inculcates, and thereby endeavour in my humble sphere, to promote the happy features of its beneficial influence; surrounded as it eventually must be, by a halo of *public prosperity*. Yet I will invariably expose existing abuses, with the same unrelenting determination; for I deem the local conduct of any man, a tolerable proof of his public claims. *Popular applause* is not the just criterion of worth; but falls oblique, and like the Evening Sun, gives a gives a gigantic shadow to a Dwarf.

"The Goodings, are really putting this man Lizars beyond himself; to gratify (I fear) their *personal animosity* towards my worthy friend Taylor; however, I am proud to say, an evident reaction has taken place in their camp, since the *expose*. Surely Sir, this is no time to be lukewarm in a *good cause?* Let me therefore trust you will use your influence on behalf of Taylor, if occasion require, and annihilate, by such a majority as will destroy, the pretensions of this *Lacerta Stellio*.

"With kind regards to Mrs. Van Egmond and Family,

"I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

(Signed) "MORGAN HAMILTON."

(Addressed.)

"A. A. G. VAN EGMOND, Esquire,

"Ross, Huron Road."

Mr. Hamilton defies me to produce the "identical letter," and I admit that I cannot, and no one knows better than Mr. Hamilton the reason why: but I have produced another letter that proves—1st. Seeing that he admits having written a letter on one subject, the contents of which he minutely describes, wholly different from the present, he therefore wrote *at least* two letters. 2nd. That he was engaged in supporting Mr. Taylor not Captain Strachan. 3rd. That he did not expostulate warmly with Mr. Van Egmond on his abuse of the Canada Company, and for once omittted the usual adulation of his great Idol, Commissioner Jones; and 4th, that whether he was intimate with Mr. Van Egmond or not, he writes to him in a style that all the world will admit has not that diplomatic air which a man would employ in (as he says) his first and only letter to a stranger.

As to the result of the Election, I would recommend Mr. Hamilton and his friends not be singing, what worthy Mrs. Ramsbottom calls *Heigh Ho Pea Hens!* on their victory, till after the scrutiny of the House of Assembly is over: it will be time enough for them and their patrons, the Canada Company, to hollow when they get out of the Wood.

I feel that I have rather lowered myself, by taking any notice of this balderdash. As for the small fry, who accompany this Leviathan—this Triton of the Minnows, they are altogether beneath my notice.

I remain, my Friends and Neighbours,

Yours truly,

W. DUNLOP.

GAIRBRAID, 25th MAY, 1841.